



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## NEWS & NOTES

The Van Cleaves of Wadley, AL, recently attended an annual family reunion in Indiana. Since most of the Indiana relatives, friends of childhood and youth, and even former students of *Miss Vera Van Cleave* could not come to Alabama for the celebration of her 100th birthday in December, they decided to hold this celebration during the summer. They seemed to feel that if Uncle Sam could move birthdays, they should have the same privilege.

Two volumes of cards, birthday letters and photos were presented to Ms. Van Cleave. Happy birthday!

*Rev. Steven E. Voelker* has resigned as pastor of Jones Chapel United Congregational Christian Church in Woodbury, GA to accept a call to Iowa. We wish for Steve and Patti God's richest blessings.

Congratulations are in order for sixty-three persons who were recognized for having perfect attendance in Sunday School. In a recent bulleting from *St. John's UCC*, Cullman, AL, nineteen people were listed as having a record of one year's perfect attendance; others had records ranging from 2 to 21 years; Arthur Richter's record is 31 years and Evelyn Richter's record is an admirable 32 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School!

## COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY HOLDS FALL MEETING

The Commission on Women met in Atlanta September 10-11 for a weekend of reflection and redefinition. We celebrated some of our achievements as a Task Force and then turned our thoughts to our future as a Commission of the Southeast Conference.

With Rev. Joyce Myers of the Office for Church Life and Leadership of the U.C.C. as facilitator we drew our scattered dreams and diverse goals into an ordered whole. The following were voted and approved:

I. Develop *leadership* skills and opportunities for service of women at all levels in the life of the church. Affirm the vocation of *women clergy* and use their gifts in The Southeast Conference.

II. Establish a *communication* network throughout the Conference for sharing of resources and information.

III. Provide opportunities for *self-affirmation* and *personal growth* of women of the Southeast Conference.

IV. Lift up the call to be in *mission* in our communities and world.

These goals will take more specific shape in the months to come. We will share these with you as they develop.

--Carol Jean Delcher

## **PILGRIMAGE HOLDS GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES**

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 12, over 100 members and friends of Pilgrimage U.C.C., a new church start in Marietta, GA, gathered on their property to break ground for their first unit building. The lilting soprano voice of Barbara Campbell of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, beckoned people down a woodland path to the building site.

After praising God with Scripture and song, the first spadeful of dirt was turned by Tom Walston, Chair of the Building Committee. Rev. Ira Chace, pastor of Pilgrimage, turned the next, then invited all present to "jump in." Much to the chagrin of the children, the adults quit after one shovelful—the children had thought the purpose was to dig the foundation!

Formal construction for the \$300,000 building will be underway by Nov. 1. The 102-member congregation has set a target date of March 1, 1983 for occupying the new facility.

This congregation has come a long way since its official beginning in October, 1979. All of us wish them God-speed in the construction of the new building and continued success.

## **FLASH!!**

If you have been looking for a single resource which will help leaders in your church in carrying out their responsibilities, the Office for Church Life and Leadership of the U.C.C. has just what you've been looking for. Available by December 1, *The Leader's Box* includes clear and concise material assistance on more than 140 topics, including Deacon, Elder, Annual Meeting Planning, Ushering, Spiritual Disciplines, UCC Polity and many, many more.

*The Leader's Box* has been over three years in the making and is the work of the staff of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, assisted by over 400 people from across the UCC who contributed towards its development. Made possible through the support of the Family Thank Offering, *The Leader's Box* is organized under four categories of leadership development: offices and positions, skills and tasks, background perspectives, and personal development. One of the churches which tested the material said, "It should be an excellent source of information and stimulation to officers, committee members and all the

members of the church.” “A handy-dandy little mini-library with a remarkably wide-ranging index and well organized,” wrote another.

“*The Leader’s Box* will cost \$23. Brochures announcing its planned release will be on pastors’ desks in October offering a pre-publication price of \$18. That price will be good through Dec. 31, 1982. You may also order *The Leader’s Box* directly from Church Leadership Resources, 1400 North 7th St., Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63106. Make checks payable to Church Leadership Resources and include 10% plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

## **RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY AND NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK**

Study aids and ideas about the Bible are found in a packet of materials from the Office for Church Life and Leadership. “Looking to the Word” contains many good resources about the Bible and Bible study. \$3.00 plus \$1.05 postage and handling, Church Leadership Resources, 1400 N. 7th St., Suite B. St. Louis, MO 63106.

## **ADVENT CALENDAR**

Reprints of A.D.’s annual Advent Calendar will again be available this year. The 1982 calendar is expanded to eight pages and is in full color. Order 10-24 reprints for 40 cents apiece; 25-49, 30 cents each; 50-99, 20 cents each; or 100 or more, 15 cents each. Send payment with order to A.D. Publications, Room 1640, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

## **NATIONAL SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS**

The United Church of Christ has been asked by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to participate in a National Salute to Vietnam Veterans this November. Specifically, the Fund has requested that we take part in nationwide religious tributes on Sunday, November 14, by honoring Vietnam veterans and those who died there. The planners have suggested prayers, ringing of church bells, special services and emphasis in sermons. The following statement was prepared for the occasion by Avery D. Post, President, United Church of Christ:

“Our Church, the United Church of Christ, is a peace-making church. We also believe deeply in the Christian message of reconciliation.

“Because of these beliefs, we feel strongly that this country must lay to rest the tensions and antagonisms that it still carries as a result of the Vietnam War.

“We in the UCC opposed this war. Our highest decision-making body, the General Synod, proclaimed that it was an unjust war, in which the United States violated the South Vietnam people’s right to self-determination.

“Nonetheless, however wrong our involvement in the Vietnam War was, it is equally wrong to require that the men and women whom our country sent there

pay, over and over, for our sins, now that the wrongness of the war has been generally recognized.

“Therefore, we salute our Vietnam soldiers for their bravery and for their willingness to risk their lives at their nation’s call. We salute them for the time they gave up, out of their youth, to serve their country. We salute both the men and women who died in Vietnam and those who returned home, whether they chose to defend their country’s actions or to work to halt them.

“As Christians, we give these veterans our love and we remember them in our prayers today. And we pray that our nation will put the divisions of Vietnam behind us, once and for all, and move forward to make peace on earth.”

## **History and Program: 25th Anniversary Edition**

A NEW 25TH ANNIVERSARY edition of the *History and Program of the United Church of Christ* is now available. Full of interesting information regarding the history of our denomination and updated information on all UCC national instrumentalities and other bodies, this expanded edition is an especially good resource for new church members.

“This booklet tells a story—simply and directly,” says Avery D. Post, president of the U.C.C., in the booklet’s preface. “The story reaches back to the roots of the United Church of Christ and tracks our growth through long years. The story illuminates the present moment and shows how we work together in mission and ministry. It even steps toward the future, as it savors the hope that our charter is to be a united and uniting church.”

Available from The Pilgrim Press, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, 132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001. One to nine copies cost \$1.50 each; ten or more copies are \$1.25 each. Payment, including \$1.50 handling and shipping if order is under \$12.50, must accompany order.

## **“WHAT’S YOUR PRIORITY?”**

Those words are on our UCC Peace Priority button, which shows a Lion and a Lamb smiling at each other, the Biblical hope of their dwelling together in peace. At the last General Synod our denomination voted as one of its two priorities that the UCC “become a peace church” as we seek to be faithful to the call of Christ to be peacemakers in today’s nuclear world.

Initiating the development of the peace priority was assigned to the Office for Church in Society (OCIS) with the cooperation of other UCC instrumentalities. Materials and resources have been produced; packets are being distributed to churches, pastors and those church leaders who have indicated a concern for peace. Five Southeast Conference representatives went to Columbus, Ohio for a regional training conference Sept. 16-18. Our delegates were: Rev. and Mrs. Charles Brewster (P.O. Box 306, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578), Rev. Edward M. Brown (499 Emory Circle N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307), Mrs. Louise Cox (Rt. 1, Box

3E, LaFayette, AL 36862), Rev. James Myers (1609 Francis Ave. S.W., Birmingham, AL 35211), and Rev. Steven Nunn-Miller (515 Young Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37504).

The overall goal is to build a network of concerned persons who link together the national, state and local efforts of religiously motivated people working for peace and justice. Because hunger and poverty worldwide are affected by the huge military expenditures, the peace and hunger networks are to be joined together. The main thrust of the program is to organize this peace and hunger network. Using the congressional district structure throughout the country, we will work to influence peace and justice through our local churches.

You will be hearing more about the program in forthcoming issues of the *Southeast News*, at various Association meetings and through contact with delegates, who have individually accepted responsibility for initiative and follow-up in their states. They are ready to answer your questions about resource materials and speaking engagements. They are committed to building a Peace Advocacy Network in our area in partnership with you—contact them!

## **FAMILIES**

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries publication entitled *Families* is a valuable resource for adult church groups and Christian educators, Sunday School teachers, etc. Copies are available by writing: United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, 132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001, Attention Dr. Nanette M. Roberts. This publication is free of charge.

## **FINDINGS FOR THE 1980 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT SURVEY**

is a help for leaders to know where to go for ideas, support and resources to start and nurture an ongoing, successful youth ministry program. Over the next three years the notebook will become a compendium of up-to-date articles sharing what's happening in young adult ministries, what programs have worked (and why), what ideas haven't worked (and why not), where to go and whom to ask for program helps. The binder notebook has 17 articles and five divider sections. By buying a 3-year "subscription" you will receive additional articles in twice a year mailings. \$12.95 from Church Leadership Resources, 1400 N. 7th St., Suite B, St. Louis, MO 63106.

## **"A Southern Pilgrimage:**

### **Central Congregational Church of Atlanta, 1882-1982"**

For all of its one hundred years, Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, GA, has lived between two worlds. It is situated in the "capital city" of the New South but its roots are in Puritan New England. Its first members were northern

émigrés, pilgrims to the hub of economic redevelopment in the post-Civil War south. It has remained a church of pilgrims, of one sort or another.

“A Southern Pilgrimage” is a cooperative undertaking to which many members of the church contributed. Principal authors are William T. Scott, Jr., Allen Moye, W. R. Myers, H. L. Johnson and R. C. McMath, Jr. Based on research in the church and denominational archives and in various Atlanta research libraries, as well as on interviews with long-time members of Central, it is 104 pages in length and is illustrated.

Available in November, prepublication price of the book is \$6.50 per copy plus 75 cents postage and handling; post-publication price is \$7.50 per copy plus postage. If five or more copies are purchased deduct 50 cents per copy and 25 cents on postage. Make checks payable to Central Congregational Church, 2676 Clairmont Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329.

## **Curt's Nuggets**

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, TN:

We expect others to honestly handle that which we give. Are we honest in handling what God gives us?

## **Conference Calendar**

### October

2	N. Alabama Association
9	S. Alabama/N.W. Florida Association
16	E. Alabama Association
17	Central Alabama Association
22-23	GA/SC Association

### November

5	World Community Day
12	Long Range Planning Committee
13	Executive Committee
14	Stewardship Sunday
	National Salute to Vietnam Veterans (see pp. 3-4)
16	Outreach Commission
21	Heritage Sunday
	Thanksgiving Sunday
	Bible Sunday
21-28	National Bible Week
28	First Sunday in Advent

## **THE SOUTHEAST NEWS**

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This transcription was recorded on July 2, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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